ment have accorded high priority for its development and have delicensed all food processing units except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale industries. Fiscal concessions have been provided to large number of processed food items and capital goods. Govt. has also simplified procedure for approvals and provided concurrence to exports. In addition to the above Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated several Plan Schemes for providing assistance for developing food processing industries during the 8th Plan which inter-alia include assistance to State Government organisations|co-operative|voluntary agencies| joint sectors, etc. for setting up or enlarging food processing facilities, developing backward linkages with farmers, marketing **support, pork, poultry** and other meat processing facilities, tuna and other fish processing facilities, deep sea fishing and processing, setting up cold chain, research and development in food processing and packaging and training of manpower in cerain sectors.

Representations on deep sea joint fishing ventures

1140. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some representations from some quarters for stopping licensing of joint fishing ventures in the deep sea by multinationals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the requests made in the representations will make 75 lakhs fishermen of country to earn their livelihood;

(d) whether the requests made in the representations will save the country of dangerous depletion of its sea food reserves;

(e) whether Government propose to take action on these representations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations were received from various quarters to withdraw the licences issued for foreign fishing vessels and for deep sea fishing vessels being operated under Joint Venture, Charter and Leasing, etc.

(c) and (d) The estimated annual catch from 30 deep sea fishing vessels being operated under the above schemes is 10,000 to 15,000 tonnes as against the *marine fish production of 26.88 lakhs* tonnes (1993-94) landed by about 2 lakhs traditional craft and mechanised fishing craft. Therefore, the activity of the deep sea fishing vessels can neither thereaten the livelihood of small fishermen nor deplete the sea food reserves.

(e) and (f) The demand of the fishermen for withdrawal of licences was examined in consultation with the State Governments and through appointment of an Expert Committee for indepth study of the situation. However, no adverse impact of the operation of deep sea fishing vessels on coastal fishing was established. On the other hand, it was found that the unchecked and un-regulated increase in the coastal fishing effort had led to the increased competition between traditional fishing boats and mechanised fishing vessels for targetting a finite resource. In view of this it was not felt necessary to withdraw the licences issued to deep sea fishing vessels under the above schemes.

Status of Murari Committee

1141. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of implementation of the Murari Committee Report.

(b) whether the deep sea fishing sector in Andhra Pradesh will get any benefit out of it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING